

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Hilary Upicksoun, Salmon Catch Monitor
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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**2013 Kotzebue News Release #6
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours from 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16 until 2 a.m. Wednesday, July 17 in the Kotzebue District.

Seventeen permit holders caught 2,038 chum salmon during Monday night's 8-hour opening. The catch was average for this date. Cumulative catch after five fishing periods is 9,378 chum salmon.

The commercial harvest this season is expected to be within the range of 225,000 to 250,000 chum salmon if market conditions can accept that level of harvest.

This year Great Pacific is requiring fishermen to bleed their catch. Also, they have asked fishermen to make several deliveries during an opening rather than holding fish throughout the fishing period. This will lead to less crushing of the fish on the bottom of the boat and therefore to a higher quality of marketable salmon. Fishermen are reminded that a buyer does not have to purchase their catch and if the buyer refuses a fishermen's catch the fishermen is required to make use of the salmon for subsistence purposes. Fishermen will be cited for waste of salmon if any salmon are dumped.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.